

Whoever operated it also had ponies for rent during the summer season. This situation existed until after World War II, then Provo City tore the store down and made it a day-time picnic park only.

Even before the railroad got started in Provo Canyon(1899), there was some big-time development in the area. This was the hydroelectric power station known simply as **Nunns**. It's located about one km below Bridal Veil Falls. Eugene Campbell covers this subject in this Provo Canyon History.

About 1894, Lucien L. Nunn and P. N. Nunn began looking for further hydroelectric developments. In 1897 Nunns Telluride Company contracted with Mercur mine and mill owner, S. L. Delamar to bring 500 horsepower of electricity to Delamar's Golden Gate Mill. The Telluride Company thus began development of a sixteen-foot(5 meter) dam on the Provo River and a thirty-two mile(51 km), high power transmission line from the dam to Mercur(in the Oquirrh Mtns.). The hydro-electric plant was named Nunns, in honor of the two brothers who provided the genius behind the Telluride Company. This 32 mile(51 km) line was hailed as the first long distance, high transmission of electricity in the world, and Mercur was the first city to have its main street lighted electrically.

Later in 1904, after completion of a waterway through tunnels and flumes to the mouth of the canyon, a permanent generating plant was finished. The new plant at Olmsted was a model plant and served as the center of instruction for the Telluride Company and its employees. The Olmsted plant converted the water power under a 350 foot(107 meter) head and had a 9650 horsepower generator capacity. Later, the Utah Power and Light Company became the successor to the Telluride Company of the Nunns.

Utah Power and Light came into existence in September of 1912, and shortly thereafter purchased both the Nunns and Olmsted Power Stations. This Telluride Power Company was the same outfit which built a similar power station at the mouth of Battle Creek Canyon east of Pleasant Grove.

At one time there were about half a dozen cottages surrounding the Nunns plant where company employees lived even after the power station was shut down. In March of 1984, Utah Power & Light sold the Nunns property to Utah County. That year the county began to develop the site as a county park. Later in summer of 1984, Dave Eagar moved into the only home left at the site to be caretaker. The old original Nunns Power Station building is still there, but in early 1980's the roof caved in, and on June 6, 1985, while workmen were trying to make repairs, it caught on fire. All that's standing are the stone walls. This tumbled-down building is now on the national register of historic sites. Surrounding the power plant site today is what is known as the Nunns Picnic Grounds, one of 4 county-run picnic sites in Provo Canyon.

Between 1904 and 1912, the **Olmsted Hydroelectric Plant** was the center of the Telluride Institute, which was a practical training ground in which to develop worthy and bright young men in the field of electricity. The institute was nick-named the *School of the Pinheads*. The founders of this facility were the two brothers, Lucien L. and Paul N. Nunn. Many of the old timers in the UP&L organization today received some of their initial training there.

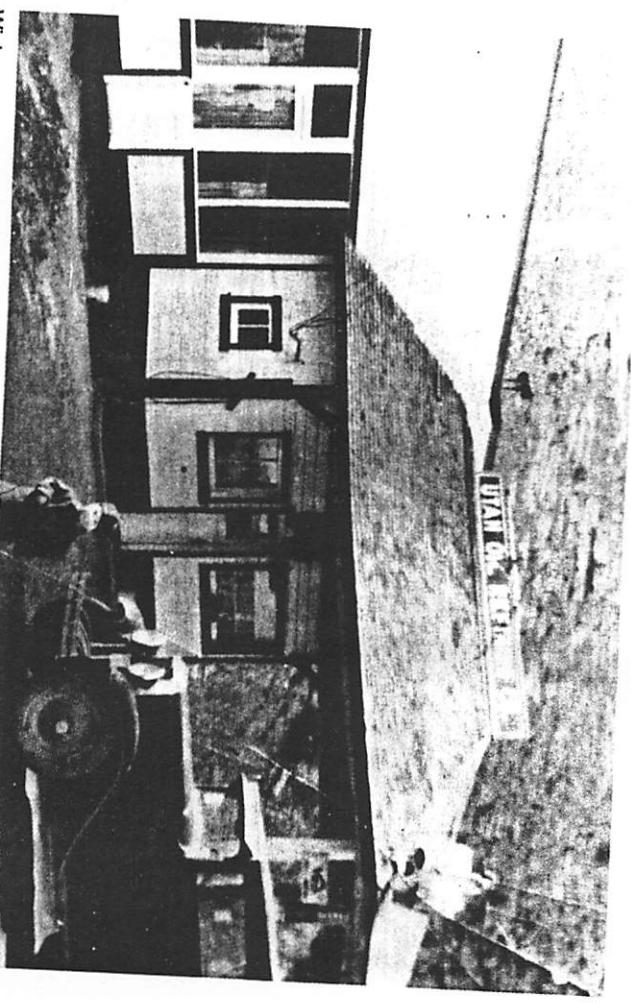
In recent years the government agency building the Central Utah Project decided they had a better use for the pipe which brings water from the Upper Falls area to the Olmsted Hydroelectric Station. So they condemned the pipe, and have been using it ever since to transport drinking water to the high benches and tanks around Utah Valley instead. It seems they could use the water both for making hydroelectricity and for drinking, but they would then have to pump it back up-hill to various city tanks. So as of 1989, the Olmsted plant was shut down--likely for good, but the case was in court as this book goes to press. Regardless of the future, the facilities at Olmsted are still impressive and are still being used today by UP&L for training purposes.

Just south of the Olmsted plant is the **Hale Steam Power Plant**. It was built in 1936 as a backup to hydroelectricity. It was originally named the Orem Plant until it was enlarged in 1950. In the early 1980's, it was shut down for a couple of reasons. First, the railway tracks were torn up leading to the plant and coal could only be delivered by truck, which made it much more costly to operate. Second, there were some problems with the EPA and the air pollution standards which the Hale Plant could not meet.

About half a km up Provo Canyon from the old Nunns Power Station is **Bridal Veil Falls**. The first time the place was mentioned by any white man was in the diary of John C. Fremont. On one of his trips through Provo Canyon, which was before the Mormons arrived in Utah, he called these waterfalls *Beautiful Cascades*.

The falls are actually on the north face of Cascade Peak, directly across the river and highway from the mouth of Lost Creek. Bridal Veil is made up of two falls, upper and lower. If you combine the two, it's a drop of 185 meters. Not far above the falls are several large springs. This is the beginning of Bridal Veil Creek. The parking lot at the base of the falls is at 1561 meters, while the springs above are about 1950 meters elevation.

The big gray wall where the falls are located is known as the Bridal Veil Member of the Oquirrh



Wicks gas station as it looked in 1934. A dance hall was built on a year or two later(Carol Bartlett Hoover foto).